



DFHP Field Trip Preview

January 30, 2025

Devils Hole, Ash
Meadows Fish
Conservation
Facility and Ash
Meadows NWR

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DFHP Overview



- Development of the DFHP began in 2005
 - Board recognized in March 2009
 - In 2024 DFHP became an initiative of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, similar to WNTI
- Our strategy and purpose is for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of desert fish habitats in cooperation with State, Local, and Tribal entities, NGOs and private partners
- The arid West historically sustained one-third of the native fish species of North America
- Approximately 30% of desert fishes are imperiled to the degree that they are federally listed as threatened or endangered and 82% are endemic to the desert west

DFHP Overview



- DFHP's geographic scope encompasses the entirety of the Great Basin and Mohave deserts, and those portions of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts that lie within the United States
- This includes all or portions of 11 western states and approximately 705,182 square miles.



DFHP Overview



- Since 2009, DFHP has:
 - Directed \$2.2 million in federal fish habitat funds, leveraged with over \$11 million federal and non-federal matching dollars
 - Completed 69 fish habitat projects in 10 of the 11 states within DFHP's geographical boundary
 - Partnered with almost 90 different organizations
 - 15+ barriers to fish passage removed, reconnecting over 200 miles of stream; enhanced, restored, or protected over 300 stream miles.
 - Installed nearly 200 instream habitat structures, and enhanced or protected over 8,000 acres of associated riparian and upland habitat

DFHP in Nevada



- Wall Canyon Sucker Barrier Project (FY24)
 - Phase 1 – Design and Planning
 - Replace a failing 20-year-old structure
 - Protect upstream Wall Canyon sucker populations from nonnative species encroachment during high flow events



DFHP in Nevada



- Hot Creek Habitat Improvements (FY12)
 - Kirch State WMA
 - Moorman White River Springfish
 - Stream channel restoration and habitat enhancement



- Condor Canyon restoration (FY12)
 - Upper Meadow Valley Wash
 - Entire range of Big Spring Spinedace
 - Habitat restoration and reconnection of off-channel spring habitats



DFHP in Nevada



- **Muddy River/Moapa Valley**

- **Apcar Box Culvert replacement (FY11)**

- Moapa dace
- Connectivity restoration

- **Muddy River Stream Bank Habitat Rehabilitation (FY14)**

- Virgin River chub and Moapa speckled dace
- Improved habitat suitability and connectivity

- **Riparian Restoration of the Moapa Valley (FY24)**

- Moapa dace and Moapa White River springfish
- Stabilization and riparian enhancement of critical stream reaches



DFHP projects at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge



Restoration of Aquatic Habitat and Improved Fish Passage at Fairbanks and Soda Springs (FY10)

Ash Meadows Amargosa
pupfish and Ash Meadows
speckled dace



Restoration of the Five Springs complex on Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (FY15)

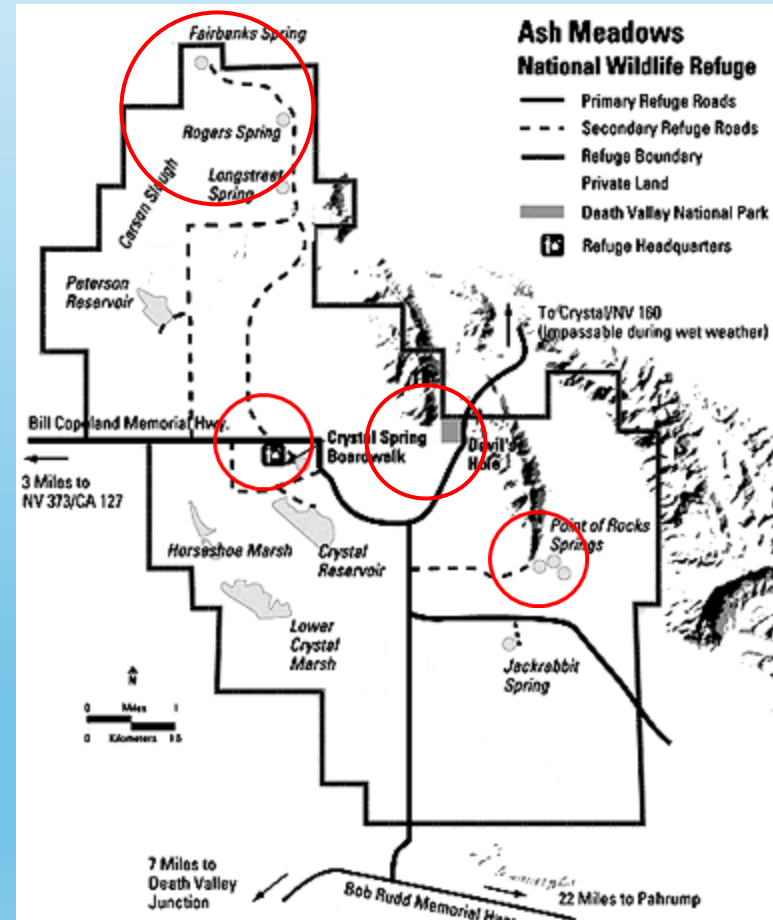
- Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish
- Restoring hydrologic connectivity between the five springs complex and downstream habitats



Desert Fish Habitat Partnership Field Trip

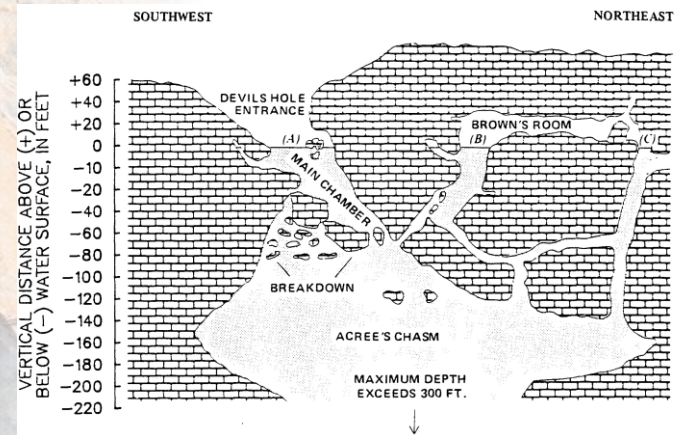
January 30 – 7AM-4PM

- Devils Hole
- Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility
- AMNWR Visitor's Center/Crystal Spring
- Point of Rocks Spring



Devils Hole

- Added to Death Valley National Monument in 1952
- Only natural population of Devils Hole pupfish



Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility

- Completed in 2013
- Maintains a captive population of Devils Hole pupfish and conducts research to support the conservation of Devils Hole pupfish and Devils Hole



Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

- Traditional seasonal homeland of the Nuwuvi and Newe peoples
- Pioneer settlement late-1800s and development of agriculture
- 1960s – peat mining, cattle ranching and then proposed massive urban development (~1980)
- 1984 – TNC facilitated purchase and transfer to USFWS
- Designated Ramsar wetlands site in 1986
- 25 endemic species (fish, plants and invertebrates)



Crystal Spring

- Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish



Point-of-Rocks Spring

- Major restoration efforts began in 1997
- Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish, Ash Meadows speckled dace and Ash Meadows naucorid



Field Trip Itinerary – 01.30.25

- 7:00 am – Meet in Hyatt parking lot
- 7:15 am – Depart Hyatt
- 9:00 am – Arrive at Devils Hole, meet with Kevin Wilson (Supervisory Aquatic Ecologist, National Park Service), tour Devils Hole
- 10:30 am – Tour of Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility, meet with Olin Feuerbacher (Facility Manager)
- 11:30 am – Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center visit, lunch (provided), and tour of Crystal Spring
- 2:00 pm – Tour Point of Rocks
- 2:30 pm – Depart back to Las Vegas
- 4:00 pm – Arrive back at Hyatt

Questions?

